





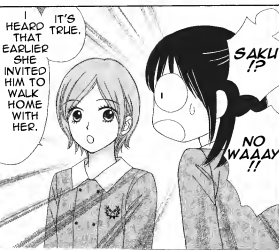




THERE'S
A RUMOR
THAT THAT
GIRL SEEMS
TO BE
INTERESTED
IN YOUR
TEAMMATE.

OOH..
WHAT
SHOULD I
DO? I'M
WORRIED.

THAT
GIRL IS
IN THE
SAME
CLASS
AS AOI-
KUN!?



I
HEARD
THAT
EARLIER
SHE
INVITED
HIM TO
WALK
HOME
WITH
HER.

IT'S
TRUE.

SAKU
!?

NO
WAAAY
!!



TEAM....MATE...



AMAZING,
SAKU...

THAT CUTE
GIRL IS
POP-
ULAR.

SO
THAT'S
HOW
IT IS.

SHE
USUALLY
STARTS
CONVER-
SATIONS
WITH HIM.
THAT'S WHAT
THE GIRLS
IN CLASS A
WERE
SAYING.

W
O
O
O
W!



IT
SEEMS
LIKE
SHE
LIKES
YOU!

NOT
BAD,
SAKU!

YEAH
...

HEY, HEY!
SASAMIYA-
SAN'S
IN YOUR
CLASS,
RIGHT?

SHE'S
SULLIER
CUTE.





SURE.

AOI-KUN!
ARE YOU GOING
HOME
NOW?

DO
YOU
WANT
TO WALK
TO THE
STATION
TO-
GETHER?



WHY
DON'T
YOU JOIN
TOO?

WE
AND SAKU
ARE IN
THE TENNIS
CLUB.

GIN-
CHAN'S
OUR CLUB
ADVISOR.
IT'S FUN!

AOI-
KUN,
ARE YOU
IN ANY
CLUBS?

I
HAVEN'T
JOINED
ANY
YET.

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
RIKKA?



OH!

I
DON'T
MIND
SPORTS,
BUT...



HAHA!
YOU
THINK?

NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION IT,
MAYBE
I HAVE MORE
OF AN INTEREST
IN CULTURE.

HMM...
BUT THE
CULTURAL
CLUB MIGHT
FIT YOUR
IMAGE
BETTER.

AOI!



MOM!

IT ENDED EARLY
SO I THOUGHT
I'D TRY TO STOP
BY. I ALSO SAID
HI TO SUOH-
SENSEI.

OH,
BUT DIDN'T
YOU HAVE
A MEETING
WITH THE
PUBLISHER
TODAY?

I
WAS
IN
TOKYO
TODAY
SO I
DIDN'T
EMAIL
YOU.

WHAT'S
UP? WHY
DID YOU
COME TO
THE
SCHOOL?

MEANING,
SHE'S MEIKO-
SAN, MY
SISTER'S
GOOD
FRIEND.

SHE'S
AOI-KUN'S
MOM.

SHE'S
LOVELY.

AOI-KUN
LOOKS
JUST LIKE
HER.





THE
SCHOOL
HASN'T
CHANGED
AT ALL.
IT WAS
NOSTAL-
GIC!

IT'S
BEEN
A WHILE
SINCE
I'VE
GONE
TO
TORYO.

THIS
YEAR
RIKKA,
SAKU AND
AO WILL
BE THERE.

WE'LL
GO
SEE THE
CULTURAL
FESTIVAL.

HOW
MANY
YEARS
HAS
IT BEEN
SINCE I'VE
GONE...?

OH,
THAT'S
RIGHT.



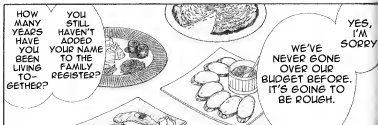
HOW
IS
NAMU-
RA?

TODAY
WAS
NO
GOOD?

IT'S TRUE. TIME
FLIES BY. I FEEL
LIKE THEY WERE
JUST BORN!

OH YEAH,
BY CHANCE I MET
RIKKA AND SAKU.
THEY'VE GOTTEN
BIG!

I
KNOW!



HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING TOGETHER?

YOU STILL HAVEN'T ADDED YOUR NAME TO THE FAMILY REGISTER?

YES, I'M SORRY

WE'VE NEVER GONE OVER OUR BUDGET BEFORE. IT'S GOING TO BE ROUGH.

TWO YEARS AGO WHEN MY RENTAL CONTRACT WAS UP FOR RENEWAL, WE LOOKED FOR A NEW PLACE AND THEN STARTED LIVING TOGETHER. THAT WAS WHEN I WAS 24...

SO 8 YEARS?

BUT WHEN RIKKA AND SAKU WERE BORN IT GOT TOO CRAMPED, SO I STARTED LIVING ON MY OWN.

WELL ...

WHEN YUJI GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE HE CAME BACK FROM KYOTO.



WHY DIDN'T YOU MARRY WHEN YOU STARTED LIVING TOGETHER?

SO THAT'S HOW IT LIVING HAPPENED. TOGETHER BECAME JUST LIKE BEING MARRIED.



Wouldn't a ceremony before an altar be nice?

Okinawa is also a good place!

An overseas wedding would be nice!

IF WE TALKED TO OUR PARENTS ABOUT THE WEDDING CEREMONY THEY WOULD GET OVERLY EXCITED.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

WE DEFINITELY TALKED ABOUT MARRIAGE, BUT...

?

WHY WAS IT AGAIN ...?

FOR
NOW,
WE'RE
FINE WITH
JUST LIVING
TOGETHER.

NEITHER
OF US
WERE THAT
INTERESTED
IN HAVING
A CEREMONY.



THEY'RE
NICE
KIDS,
SO I
FEEL
SATISFIED.

BUT
DON'T
I HAVE
RIKKA
AND
SAKU?

...
YEAH.

BUT
IF YOU GO
ON LIKE THAT,
WON'T YOU NOT
BE ABLE TO HAVE
KIDS?



OH!
THAT'S
RIGHT.
I'M
SO
JEAL-
LOUS!

BECAUSE
IT'S JUST US
TWO, IF WE HAVE
VACATION TIME
WE CAN EASILY
GET UP
AND GO
ANYWHERE.

AND
ALSO,
THE LIFE
OF JUST
TWO
PEOPLE IS
ENJOYABLE.

I WAS AN AUNT
TO THOSE KIDS WHEN WE
WERE LIVING TOGETHER,
AND BECAUSE I REALLY
CARED FOR THEM, I FEEL
LIKE I'VE HAD THE
EXPERIENCE
OF RAISING
KIDS.

IT
HAPP-
ENED
TO ME
FASTER
THAN I
THOUGHT
IT WOULD.

BE-
CAUSE
I HAD AOI
THE "JUST
US TWO"
PERIOD
WAS BRIEF.

I
SEE.







YOU SAID THE TWO PERSON LIFE IS ENJOYABLE, BUT YOU CAN'T JUST GO AT YOUR OWN PACE. YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT IT MORE CAREFULLY.

UH...
YEAH
...

LIKE ABOUT YOUR AGE.



DIDN'T YOU DECIDE THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT KIDS?

BUT YOUR OWN KIDS ARE REALLY CUTE.

YEAH,

FOR SURE.

IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM HAVING A LITTLE SISTER OR BROTHER.

WELL, SOMEDAY I DO, BUT...



OH, ARIMI-SAN IS A CAREER WOMAN SO SHE'S BUSY.

IT'S TOUGH, HUH...

...I WANT TO HAVE KIDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



WHAT ABOUT YOU?

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT HAVING KIDS?



GINTA, WHILE YOU WERE LOOKING FOR A JOB YOU WERE AFRAID ARIMI-SAN WOULD MEET SOMEONE NEW.

MIKI!



OH! I KNOW WHY HE WAS SO QUICK ABOUT IT!

YOU GOT MARRIED FAST, DIDN'T YOU?

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT YOU BECAME A WORKING ADULT YOUR FIRST YEAR OUT OF SCHOOL...



SO
YOU
WENT TO
FRANCE
FOR YOUR
GRADUATION
TRIP.

AT
MONT
SAINT-
MICHEL,
WHILE
GAZING AT
HER UNDER
THE SETTING
SUN,
YOU
PROPOSED
TO HER.

AND
SHE
PLAYED
ALONG
AND
SAID
OKAY.

ALL
RIGHT,
ALREADY!
IT'S
NOT A BIG
DEAL.



HEY!

MONT-
SAINT
MICHEL,
HUH?

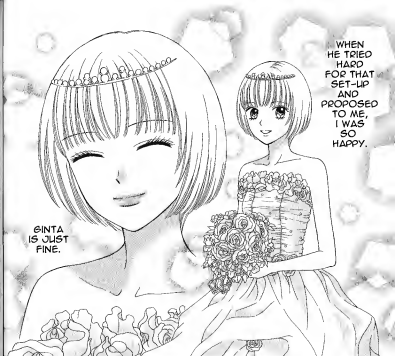
ARIMI-
SAN JUST
SAID OKAY
ON A
WHIM.

WHAT
A
WASTE!

SHE
SAID
YULI WAS
JUST TEASING
WHEN HE
SAID "WEREN'T
YOU QUICK ABOUT
SEDUCING
HER AT THE WORLD
HERITAGE SITE?"

BUT
YOU
KNOW,

ON
THE
DAY OF
THE WEDDING
RECEPTION
WHEN
I WENT TO
SEE ARIMI-SAN
IN HER WAITING
ROOM,



GINTA
IS JUST
FINE.

WHEN
HE TRIED
HARD
FOR THAT
SET-UP
AND
PROPOSED
TO ME,
I WAS
SO
HAPPY.



.....
PROB-
ABLY.

I
WANTED
TO SEE
HER.
IS SHE
DOING
WELL?

WOOOW!
GOOD FOR
YOU, GINTA!

...THAT'S
WHAT
SHE
SAID!

きゃっ
.....
きゃっ
.....



DID ARIMI-SAN
LEAVE
YOU!?

WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN BY
THAT?

ARE
YOU
LIVING
APART!?

HUH?
?

I
HAVEN'T
SEEN
HER
SO
I
DON'T
KNOW.

YEAH.

WAS
SHE
RELOC-
ATED
BECAUSE
OF HER
JOB?

SHE
MOVED
OVERSEAS
TO START
A NEW
JOB?

YEAH.

SHE'S
IN
LONDON
RIGHT
NOW.

ARIMI
IS
SERVING
IN
LONDON
FOR
THREE
YEARS.

I WAS
HAPPY
WHEN
SHE WAS
CHOSEN
FOR THE
POSITION,
BUT...

I DIDN'T
WANT TO
GO WITH
HER.

SO THE
COMPANY
HEADQUARTERS
ARE IN LONDON!
INCREDIBLE!
THAT'S
JUST LIKE OUR
ARIMI-SAN!

WHAT
WAS
THAT
ALL
ABOUT?
DON'T
SCARE
ME LIKE
THAT!



WHAT'S MORE, 3 YEARS LATER WE'RE STILL LIVING APART!

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.

BUT ARIMI WAS ABSORBED IN HER WORK AND WAS INSISTENT ABOUT IT STILL NOT BEING THE RIGHT TIME.

AROUND THEN I TOLD HER I WANTED TO HURRY AND HAVE KIDS.

I DISCUSSED IT WITH HER AND TOOK BOTH SIDES INTO CONSIDERATION, BUT WE COULDN'T AGREE AND IN THE END WE HAD A HUGE FIGHT.

ON THE DAY I LEFT LONDON, SHE LEFT BEHIND DIVORCE REGISTRATION PAPERS.

A MEMO WAS ATTACHED TO THEM THAT SAID "IF YOU FILE THESE CONTACT ME."

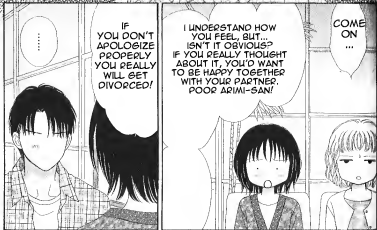
NOTHING, REALLY. SINCE THEN MORE THAN TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED, AND I HAVEN'T CONTACTED HER.

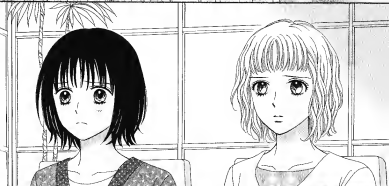
WHAT DID YOU DO?!

WAIT... THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED?!

WHAAT??

WHY NOT?? YOU IDIOT!





REALLY?

HUUHH?
NO, NO,
NO
WAY!!

WHAT A
RELIEF!
...I ASKED
SAKU-KUN
TOO BUT
HE
WOULDN'T
TELL ME
ANYTHING.

SO
WE'RE
LIKE
SIBLINGS.

HE'S
LIKE A
BROTHER
TO ME.

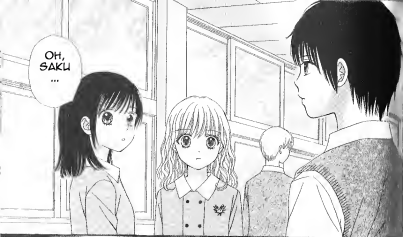
R
I
K
K
A

OUR
PARENTS
ARE GOOD
FRIENDS
WITH EACH
OTHER, SO
OUR TWO
FAMILIES HAVE
ALWAYS
LIVED
TOGETHER.

THEN,
ARE YOU
CHILD-
HOOD
FRIENDS?
OR
SOMETHING
ELSE?

LIM,
WELL

...

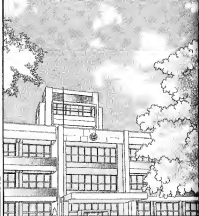


OH,
SAKU
...



NOT
EVEN
ONCE.

I
HAVE
NEVER
THOUGHT
OF YOU
AS A
SIBLING.



YOU GET ALONG REALLY WELL WITH KOISHIKAWA SAKUKUN. ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH HIM?

Y-YEAH.

COULD I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

YOU'RE A GIRL FROM CLASS E, RIGHT?

I'M SASAMIYA RENA FROM CLASS A.

EXCUSE ME